

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 853

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A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clayton Marshall Hickman, United States Army, of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clayton Marshall Hickman, a courageous member of the United States Army who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind in order to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Hickman was a dedicated soldier who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow servicemen in numerous capacities; he truly loved the Army and took great pride in the important role he played in our nation's defense; and

WHEREAS, valiantly fulfilling a three-year assignment to Stuttgart, Germany, he served with the utmost character, skill, and integrity, earning the respect of his superiors and fellow servicemen alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, the son of Lloyd Marshall and Nicola Renae Crumley Hickman, Clayton Marshall Hickman was born February 3, 1978; and

WHEREAS, active from an early age, Mr. Hickman was involved in the Boy Scouts, City League Baseball, Eastside Animal Hospital, the Whitthorne Middle School band, and the

Central High School marching band; it was during his time in the marching band that he traveled to Arizona and discovered a love of flying on his first airplane trip; and

WHEREAS, before joining the military, Mr. Hickman also worked for Sam Hills, Piggly Wiggly, and the Maury County Airport; he enjoyed drafting and home design as hobbies; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, he joined the United States Marine Corps and spent time in Japan, South Korea, and Thailand, before returning to Jacksonville, Florida, for his last duty station; after nine years of service, he left the Marines as a Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. Hickman joined the United States Army, attended Warrant Officer's Planning School in order to learn to fly helicopters, and was stationed in Fort Rucker, Alabama; he began his service in Stuttgart in 2009; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Chief Warrant Officer Hickman is survived by his children, Brett Marshall Hickman and Brenna Grace Hickman; his brother, United States Marine Corps Sergeant Dustin Hickman and his wife, Katie; his maternal grandmother, Violetta Raffae Crumley; his maternal grandfather, Charles Morris Crumley; his aunts and their spouses, Lynda Crumley, Viola Harrington, Patricia Luther and her husband, David, and Melinda Delk and her husband, Larry; and several cousins; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Leonard Clayton and Grace Doreen Hickman, and his aunt, Sandra Bullock; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Clayton Marshall Hickman did not shrink from service, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clayton Marshall Hickman, United States Army, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clayton Marshall Hickman, United States Army, a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation, and reflect fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Clayton Marshall Hickman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.